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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Rice, Lavrov to outline Bush-Putin summit in Ankara -
Hurriyet
Talabani officially announces candidacy for top Iraq posts -
Sabah
Talabani warns against Turkish intervention in Iraq -
Milliyet
Greek Cypriot youth want two separate states in Cyprus -
Hurriyet
'Sheriff' Bush points to Iran, Syria - Sabah
Iran refuses to stop nuclear program - Sabah
Israel to pull out of 5 Palestinian towns - Aksam
Basayev prepares for Beslan-type attack - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

Barzani: Turkey cannot declare Kirkuk its 'red line' - Zaman
Talabani eyes Iraq presidency - Zaman
Kurds want Iraq presidency, independence to follow -
Cumhuriyet
Barzani: A Kurdish state is inevitable - Radikal
Shiite coalition leads in 6 provinces in Iraq - Yeni Safak
Bush calls on Iranians to revolt against their government -
Zaman
Bush labels Iran number 1 terror supporter - Radikal
Hamane: US will not be able to topple us - Yeni Safak
Bush threatens Tehran, Damascus again - Cumhuriyet
Palestine, Israel may agree to cease fire at Egypt summit -
Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Secretary Rice Due In Ankara: US Secretary of State

SIPDIS

Condoleezza Rice is to arrive in Ankara over the weekend in an effort to allay Turkish fears that an independent Kurdish state is taking shape in Iraq, Turkish papers report. Her tight schedule includes 11 cities in 7 days, and has obliged Rice to meet with her Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, in Ankara. The two secretaries will discuss Iraq, Iran's nuclear program, Syria, south Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh. The Turkish side will present Secretary Rice with two reports by Turkish military intelligence regarding developments in Iraq, "Aksam" writes. The reports include Turkey's objections to the elections in Kirkuk, and a description of the activities of PKK/Kongra Gel militants in northern Iraq. "Aksam" claims that FM Gul will hand the reports to Secretary Rice, and warn that Turkey will carry out its own measures in the spring if the US does not take 'satisfactory' measures against the PKK soon. Rice is scheduled to meet with Gul, Erdogan and President Sezer on Saturday and Sunday.

Northern Iraqi Kurdish Leaders Warn Against Turkish Intervention: According to information obtained by Ankara, some 110,000 Kurds flocked into Kirkuk to take part in the elections last week, "Hurriyet" reports. The Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) reportedly will take documents to the Iraqi high election board as part of its official complaint. Barzani and Talabani criticized recent remarks by Turkey's PM Erdogan, which the northern Iraqi Kurdish leaders regard as interference in Iraq's internal affairs. 'If Turks claim rights over Kirkuk, Arabs and Kurds here can do the same for Turkish provinces like Antakya and Diyarbakir,' Talabani reportedly said. Barzani told CNN-Turk that a possible Turkish intervention in the region would bring 'catastrophic' consequences.

Ankara Will Not Object To Kurds In Top Iraqi Posts: Turkey believes that if Kurdish politicians have senior roles in the new Iraqi administration, it will diminish their efforts to push for an independent Kurdish state, "Milliyet" reports. Ankara will not object to the election results in Iraq, but will issue a statement to draw world attention to the changes made to the demography of Kirkuk. The statement will urge that Kirkuk's autonomous status be preserved in the new Iraqi constitution. Ankara expects Washington to push, to the extent possible, for a national coalition in Iraq, according to the paper. Meanwhile, PUK leader Talabani has announced his candidacy for the post of president or prime minister in Iraq.

EU Urges Ankara To Include Nicosia In EU Protocol: The European Union Commission reportedly urged Turkey to sign the protocol expanding its Customs Union (CU) agreement with the Union in a way to include the Greek Cypriot administration by the end of February. Meanwhile, PM Erdogan said to visiting French Parliament Speaker Jean-Louis Debre that Turkey would sign the protocol before October 3, 2005. Northern Cypriot 'PM' Mehmet Ali Talat pushed Ankara to sign the protocol without waiting until early October: 'Such a signing will enable the EU to push Papadopoulos for a settlement in Cyprus. This act by Ankara will not mean recognition, but rather a normalization of ties with south Cyprus,' Talat said, according to "Milliyet."

'Horrible' Remarks From US General: "Yeni Safak" carries comments by US General James N. Mattis, who was speaking to a forum in San Diego about strategies in the war in Iraq. General Mattis is an infantry officer who commanded Marines in both Afghanistan and Iraq. 'Actually, it's fun to fight,' he said. 'It's fun to shoot some people,' Mattis reportedly added. Some 200 listeners were perplexed to hear such remarks from Mattis, "Yeni Safak" reports.

EDITORIAL OPINION: The State of the Union Address

"Bush Warns Iran and Syria"
Yasemin Congar wrote from Washington in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (2/4): "President Bush made an open call for democracy to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and urged the Iranian and Syrian governments to stop supporting terrorism. Bush wants to see Damascus end its support for terrorism and pave the way toward freedoms. Bush also sent a very determined message to Tehran, warning the Iranians on the terrorism issue and about their nuclear arms activities. The State of the Union focused on four messages. First, Bush listed 'target states' within the framework of the Broader Middle East and the fight against terrorism. Second, he announced that there would be no withdrawal from Iraq until Iraqi security forces are fully in charge. Third, he signaled more diplomatic and financial assistance for the Palestinians. Finally, he called for more efforts on democratization by Egypt and Saudi Arabia, countries that until now have been treated as close friends of the US."

"The Sheriff Points at Iran and Syria"
The mass appeal daily "Sabah" carried this (2/4): "President Bush dedicated the State of the Union to the issue of the expansion of freedom and democracy. He declared Iran to be the prime supporter of terrorism, while making a plea for Egypt to accelerate the democratization process. The tone of President Bush's speech was no different from recent statements by other high level American officials. Like them, President Bush once again took a harsh and accusatory tone toward Iran and Syria. His speech will undoubtedly fuel ongoing speculation about the possibility that Iran and Syria will be the new American targets."

"Bush Threatened Again"
Leftist-nationalist "Cumhuriyet" carried the following (2/4): "US President George W. Bush, for the sake of peace in the broader Middle East, openly targeted Iran and Syria, and said that the US will fight against countries that insist on producing WMDs and who shelter terrorists. In his annual State of the Union Address, President Bush highlighted that advancing global freedom will make the US more secure, and openly warned Iran and Syria on this issue. Blasting Iran for its nuclear weapon programs and for supporting terrorists, and accusing Syria for allowing its territory and parts of Lebanon to be used by terrorists, President Bush reiterated that the US will strongly oppose these efforts. Bush stated that he will not announce a date for the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq."

"Bush Pledges Iranians to Rebel"
The Islamist-opinion maker "Yeni Safak" told its readers (2/4): "President Bush urged Iranians to rebel against the Tehran Government, warned Syria against sheltering terrorists, and criticized Egypt and Saudi Arabia for delaying democratic reforms in their countries. After warning Iran and Syria about their activities, President Bush told the Iranian people 'as you stand for your own

liberty, America stands with you.' His administration's commitment to advancing global freedom, particularly in the Middle East, is now being tested in Iraq. 'Our men and women in uniform are fighting terrorists in Iraq, so we do not have to face them here at home,' he said. Bush continued: 'the victory of freedom in Iraq will strengthen a new ally in the war on terror, inspire democratic reformers from Damascus to Tehran, bring more hope and progress to a troubled region, and lift a terrible threat from the lives of our children and grandchildren.'"

EDELMAN